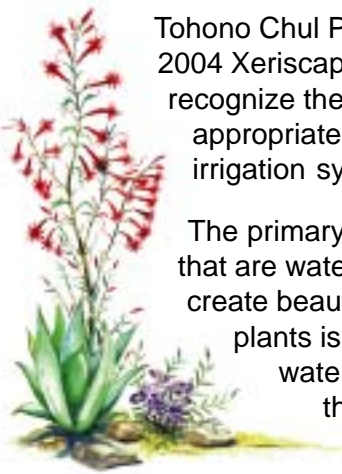


2004 Xeriscape Contest Award Winners



Tohono Chul Park and the Arizona Department of Water Resources recognized the winners of their 2004 Xeriscape Contest at a ceremony at Tohono Chul Park on May 13. Awards were given to recognize the work of professionals and property owners who have made innovative and appropriate use of native and low-water-use plants, water harvesting, graywater and efficient irrigation systems.

The primary reason for this contest is to increase awareness of exemplary landscapes that are water efficient and to encourage others to utilize these innovative practices to create beautiful landscapes and save water. The use of Xeriscaping and native plants is an important aspect of desert-appropriate landscaping and promoting water conservation in our community. The following were recognized for their outstanding landscapes:



HOMEOWNER AWARDS

Homeowner First Place: Karola Saller

The judges found this yard to evoke a feeling of tranquility and peacefulness. The owners carefully selected native plants to re-vegetate construction damaged areas and have allowed natives to naturally re-emerge. They have enhanced their yard with lots of color and a variety of textures through the use of indigenous plants. The owners can enjoy spectacular views of the Tucson Mountains while strolling along a trail they built around the entire property!



[click here for additional photos](#)

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Professional Residential First Place: Joe Billings "The Landscaping Artist" - Wlach Residence

This exemplary landscape channels water from every downspout into a "rainwater-harvesting boulder-strewn streambed and natural landscape garden." - even the water harvesting is scenic yet effective where every plant and rock was orchestrated into place. In a neighborhood with "postage stamp" yards, driving up the street the landscape stood out with a stunning native-plant pallet, and serves as a shining example for the neighbors and now for all of Tucson to admire and emulate!



[click here for additional photos](#)

Professional Residential Second Place: Dean Alexander, Blue Agave Landscape - Amado Residence

Located in the Historic Barrio in downtown Tucson, this design incorporates a collection of plants that would have been used historically, such as fig, pomegranate and palm, and added a water-harvesting cistern to reduce the need for irrigation. The designer used broken-up concrete as paving and step stones, added an adobe shrine and mesquite-limb ramada, drought-tolerant plants such as Mt. Lemmon marigold, penstemon, aloes and agaves, to complete this lush and inviting oasis. What started as a winter get away now convinces the homeowners to brave the summer heat and stay longer to relax in its ambiance!



[click here for additional photos](#)

JUDGES' AWARDS - PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY



[click here for additional photos](#)

“Best Treatment of a Hillside,” Roberta Braegelmann, Sonoran Gardens - Horton Residence

This spectacular landscape in which the attention to detail in the plant selection, the flagstone installation and the cascading patios was so beautiful and welcoming that we had a difficult time getting the judges to leave! In addition, the living space was beautifully extended. Plus the back area, full of color, was perfectly blended into the surrounding open space without walls!

Xeriscape planning should begin before a house is even built ...

Best Entryway featuring Native Plants, Deb Hahn-Butterfield, Horizons West Landscape - Stout Residence

This home was positioned so all visitors would enjoy two magnificent 200-year-old saguaros, add a welcoming



courtyard area complete with salvia, euphorbia, bird of paradise, mesquites, and hybrid “Desert Museum” Palo Verde.



[click here for additional photos](#)



One of most prestigious awards, the **Distinguished Xeriscape Award**, was presented to **Joe Billings, The Landscaping Artist**, for the spectacular work on the Wlach Residence. This award honors a landscape design that distinguishes itself from the rest yet follows our conservation and beautification goals. The judges were impressed with just driving by.



[click here for additional photos](#)

Another of our top awards honors the memory of J. D. DiMeglio, a Tucson legend and innovator in the garden design world, the **2004 J.D. DiMeglio "Artistry in Landscaping" Award** - was presented to **Scott Calhoun** who has written a book about his past 4 years of hard work on this landscape coming out this fall titled, *Yard Full of Sun: The Story of a Gardener's Obsession That Got a Little Out of Hand...* this is a homeowner entry which focused on three "big ideas:"



1. Celebrating native plants – to "embody the spirit of the Arizona desert" including the wildness of bold natural shapes and seeds germinating where they fell.

2. Saving water – by not planting anything that requires water more than once a week and use a culvert-cistern system designed by the homeowner.



3. Living outside with style – complete with outdoor movie viewing and summer sleeping quarters and lots and lots of color and unique art.

[click here for additional photos](#)

JUDGES' AWARDS - RAINWATER HARVESTING

To promote water conservation and irrigation efficiency the judges have selected three special water awards:



[click here for additional photos](#)

“Best Use of Water Harvesting” Dean Alexander, Blue Agave Landscape - Amado Residence for the ingenious water harvesting techniques applied at which enabled the yard to combine the historic barrio plants yet remain a water-conserving garden.

In the homeowner category the **“Best Water Harvesting”** award goes to a homeowner - Scott Calhoun who works in the nursery trade, but has conceived and installed a unique system including three culvert cisterns to collect water from his Civano rooftop.

“Most Efficient Irrigation System” Horizons West Landscape - Stout Residence, irrigation design and installation by Steve Malgren. Steve has done an exemplary job at using separate valves to establish irrigation zones based on plant water-use requirements, allowing plants and trees to be watered efficiently. We are lucky to have irrigation-specialist judges who check the valve box at every location. Their input is very important to us (along with water-use reports submitted by applicants) for gauging the winners.



[click here for additional photos](#)

JUDGES' AWARDS - HOMEOWNER CATEGORY



“Best Design to Attract Wildlife” J. P. and Debra Bradley - these homeowners have created a wildlife habitat that includes a waterhole, vegetative cover, and a native grassland area that has become a home to many birds, bobcats, javelinas and coyotes.



[click here for additional photos](#)



One judge notes that this wasn't just a lot of work to create all the many wandering paths and habitat areas but a true passion!

JUDGES' AWARDS - HOMEOWNER CATEGORY, Continued



“Best Use of Sonoran and Chihuahuan Desert Natives”
Karola Saller - also our First Place winner in the Homeowner category. This is a landscape full of Mesquite, Acacia, Cholla, Agave, Jojoba and Palo Verde. This planting terraces the hillside with raised planters and beautifully planted containers, resulting in what the judges unanimously called a tranquil setting. (They all wanted to move in!)



[click here for additional photos](#)



[click here for additional photos](#)

“Best Revegetation of a Disturbed Desert Area” **Miriam and Edward Kirsten** - starting with a barren mound of sand, this property was transformed into a jubilant array of cacti, succulents, trees, butterfly & hummingbird attractors — hence the judges have given this award to these homeowners who obviously love plants and have applied many Xeriscape principles.



Take a look at these dramatic before and after photographs.

Professionals and homeowners were judged separately. All landscapes must have been at least two years old. ADWR and Tohono Chul Park will again be hosting this Tucson area contest in 2005. For more information on the 2005 contest, contact Christina Bickelmann at ADWR (520) 770-3816 or, Mary Emich at Tohono Chul Park at (520) 742-6455, ext. 220.